



TILLANDSIA

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.
- For Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys -

JANUARY 2021

MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Free and open to all.

This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

A link will be posted online (dadefnps.org) and sent by email a few days before the meeting.

Please join early to allow for addressing access issues.

Problems? Email DadeFNPS@gmail.com, text 305-985-3677

“Mathematical Patterns in Botany and the Importance of Variation in Plant Species”

– Dr. Chad Husby, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

To be a plant is to grow and develop continuously. Plants can be likened to living sculptures that develop according to underlying patterns while interacting with their environment. Mathematics provides us with the tools to understand many of these patterns that can be found throughout the Plant Kingdom. This talk will focus on some of the most dramatic examples of mathematical patterns that arise from plant growth processes: Fibonacci numbers in the spiral arrangements of plant parts, fractals in branching patterns and equiangular spirals in certain leaves. In addition, we will explore how much diversity of form can be found even within what we often call "the same plant" (i.e. within a plant species). This relates to how small genetic variations can produce quite a lot of diversity at the macro level and why we need to conserve this diversity within species in addition to diversity among species.



Dr. Chad Husby is Botanical Horticulturist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. His main focus is finding, cultivating, and propagating new plants to enhance horticulture and botanical collections. He focuses on plant groups with major unrealized potential, from conifers and ferns to plants with exceptional, flowers, foliage and unusual fruits. Chad also enjoys educating

students and the public about plant exploration, horticulture and

Calendar

Jan. 10 (Sun.): Dade Chapter field trip (Bear Cut Preserve)

Jan. 13 (Wed.): Broward Chapter meeting (online)

Jan. 26 (Tue.): Dade Chapter meeting (online)

Feb. 14 (Sun.): Dade Chapter field trip (Camp Matecumbe)

Feb. 23 (Tue.): Dade Chapter meeting (online)

Mar. 27-28: Native Plant Field Day

See our [calendar](http://dadefnps.org) at dadefnps.org (“Field trips and Events tab”) for updates on Dade and Broward Chapter and FNPS events.

Other events of interest coming up soon

Jan. 18: Free entrance day, Everglades National Park

Jan. 19: Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (online)

Feb. 7: Miami Blue NABA meeting (online)

botany. His scientific research ranges from plant ecophysiology and horticulture to conservation and systematics.

February 23 program: "Pollination in the urban environment - public spaces and our own gardens!" – Dr. Suzanne Koptur, Professor of Biological Sciences, Florida International Univ.

Watch past programs on the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) (or at dadefnps.org click the YouTube button).

Broward Chapter FNPS meeting (online), January 13, 7 pm. “Designing with Florida Native Plants” with George Debs and Stephanie Dunn. See coontie.fnpschapters.org/



NATIVE PLANT FIELD DAY!

As an adaptation to our annual Native Plant Day, we will instead host Native Plant Field Day on March 27-28 with a **series of field trips** to some unique habitats. This event will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more details!



Remembering Don Gann:

Friend and founder

(Page 2)

REMEMBERING DON GANN

Friend and Founder

1931-2020



Don was a founder of FNPS and the Dade Chapter in the early 1980s, along with his wife, Joyce. Each was engaged with DCFNPS – to the extent their health allowed – practically until their deaths, Joyce in February and Don on December 11, 2020.

Many of us first knew Don and Joyce from buying plants at Gann's Native Tropical Greenery, one of the first native plant businesses in Florida. In the early 1980s, they were involved in FNPS and Dade Chapter founding and then governance. Over the years, they presented programs at chapter meetings, led workshops, volunteered at events, and guided us in early advocacy to preserve Dade County's natural areas. At the same time, they helped establish The Institute for Regional Conservation, and the Florida Association of Native Nurseries. We also looked forward to the annual "Nature Lovers' Holiday Party" at their home in a Redland hammock.

They were co-recipients of FNPS Green Palmetto (1989) and Mentor Awards (2000) for "their many years of helping and teaching others about all aspects of native plants, founding the chapter, efforts to preserve and promote the use of natives."

In 1987 the Dade Chapter awarded them the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award for "inspiring us to learn about native plants and to love them." In 2012 they were honored as founders of the Dade Chapter on its 30th anniversary, and a tradition of donating annually in their honor to the FNPS Conservation Grant awards fund began.

In 2018, Tropical Audubon Society awarded Don and Joyce the Polly Redford Citizen Service Award. Miami-Dade County proclaimed February 11, 2019, as "[Don and Joyce Gann Day](#)" in recognition of their many years of service and dedication to the protection and preservation of native plants and natural areas.

An [interview](#) by Diane Otis in *Palmetto* (spring 2000) tells of their experiences growing up and in the early days of FNPS.

Even before FNPS was founded, Don and Joyce were mainstays of the Dade Native Plant Workshop. Roger Hammer says: "My best memories of Don was when he and Joyce would walk into the Native Plant Workshop meetings each month with a quarter-acre of plant cuttings to identify and discuss. He and Joyce were always a pleasure to be around when we'd have a field trip the following Saturday. I'll always remember them as

pioneers in promoting South Florida native plants at their nursery, and were influential in getting many local residents interested in growing native plants in their home gardens."

We are used to saying "Joyce and Don" or "The Ganns" but we appreciated Don's unique personality and separate contributions.

He gave numerous presentations to various groups and helped with selecting sites for proposed state purchases. He also taught without even trying. New volunteers at Dade Chapter public plant sales were advised to stand near Don to eavesdrop and soak up what to say to shoppers. It was a terrific way to learn things about natives that weren't in the books!

From 1992 to 2019 Don served on the Miami-Dade County Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) which selects properties for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Janet Gil, EEL Program Director, recalls Don as thoughtful, kind and environmental-minded in his service. In the 2000 *Palmetto* interview, Don said he considered this to be his most important accomplishment because the LASC chose some "small, but significant lands that are the last refuge of some of Miami-Dade's most endangered plants."

In the December 2020 newsletter of The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC), George Gann (Executive Director and son of Don and Joyce) discusses "... the evolution of many rural people as they experience the loss of nature around them." Coming from a family of farmers, the Ganns "evolved from destroyers of nature to restorers of nature, ultimately transitioning from plowing up native ecosystems and growing tomatoes (which we need!) to growing native plants and helping to figure out how to restore their habitats."

Don was also a creative writer, though we rarely saw this. In his report in *Tillandsia* on the first ever DCFNPS trip which he organized and co-led (June 1985 to Long Pine Key), he didn't just list flowers seen, but described colors and butterflies, and added, "We also were accompanied by some small black flying things, but they posed no major threat." At the 2017 FNPS Conference, Don attended a workshop entitled "Nature Journaling 'On and Off the Trail'" led by *Palmetto* editor Marjory Shropshire. As some of us returned from our field trips, we noticed him at a picnic table engrossed in his journal of drawings and writing, while Joyce was happily engrossed in a novel. Perhaps that eventually led to his July 2020 *Tillandsia* article "[Dawn](#)".

We will greatly miss his knowledge, talents, thoughtfulness, sense of humor and decades of friendship.

Read obituaries in the [South Dade Newsleader](#), [FNPS blog](#) and [FNPS Sabal minor newsletter](#).

Donations may be made to the FNPS Conservation Grants in memory of Don and Joyce. Our chapter has contributed annually since 2013 in their honor. You may donate to the chapter's fund for this purpose by sending a check to DCFNPS at Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919 (note "Gann fund" in memo). Or donate online directly to the FNPS grants in their honor at <https://forms.fnps.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=32>

FIELD TRIPS

Bear Cut Preserve, Crandon Park, Key Biscayne
Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, 9a.m.

Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!

Registration is required as space is limited due to county guidelines on group size. Thus only current DCFNPS members may register. **To register, please contact Steve Woodmansee (steve@pronative.com) by Friday, January 8.**

Key Biscayne is Florida's southeasternmost barrier island. We will explore and botanize coastal habitats, including beach dune, coastal strand, and hammock. The preserve offers some of the best examples of intact coastline remaining in southeast Florida. It is home to several rare plant species, three of which are endemic to South Florida, most others being tropical species toward the northern limit of their range.

Leader: Steve Woodmansee, Pro Native Consulting.

Bring: Face mask, water, sun protection.

Difficulty: Easy. Sandy paths, sun and shade.

● **February 14 (Sunday): Camp Matecumbe/Boystown Pineland County Preserve** in Kendall, led by Miami-Dade County Biologist Tiffany Melvin. See the February newsletter for registration.

Support the Dade Chapter FNPS by using Amazon Smile!

Register for Amazon Smile and then always start at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. *Little bits add up!*



DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! Mary Rankin Jackson, Fabian Kahn, William Kleis, Kimberly Ogren, Eve Quinlan, Charlie Reverte, Darlene Rota, Krissie Thompson and Mark McClenny

Give Miami Day, November 2020

Many thanks to the 28 donors who supported the Dade Chapter FNPS! We received a total of \$1600.42, including a bonus of \$113.55 from the Miami Foundation.

FNPS. See [FNPS.org](https://fnps.org) for news, Lunch & Learn, and lots more.

◆ **The January-February 2021 *Sabal minor* FNPS newsletter** (emailed on January 1) is chock-full of news. **You can also find it at [FNPS.org](https://fnps.org) under Resources.**

If you have no internet access, you might ask a friend to print or show it to you on their device, but if you need assistance please leave a message for DCFNPS at 305-985-3677.

◆ **You can now receive the *Palmetto* magazine by email.** Let FNPS know your preference at communications@fnpr.org.

◆ **Grant/award applications are due March 5, 2021** for FNPS Endowment Research Grants, Conservation Grants, Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany, and Landscape Awards.

See <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards>

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

Learn about, enjoy and help native plants and natural areas.

Native Plant Workshops

◆ **Dade NPW.** See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/ for current activities. **Join on the website** (free!) to post photos for identification, share or comment.

◆ **Florida Keys NPW virtual meeting January 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** Jennifer Possley from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will present on ferns. For email notification, questions or suggestions, please email FKNPW@outlook.com. Notices are also posted on the Dade NPW site (above).

◆ **News of note from Steve Woodmansee's Blog** (on the Dade Native Plant Workshop website above).

Flora of the Southeastern United States Free Digital Copy.

You can download the whole flora, or the region of Florida.

Go to <https://ncbg.unc.edu/research/unc-herbarium/floras/>.

*(Editor's note: This might be of interest mostly to serious botanists, but note that the Bibliography for Florida includes three entries from the FNPS *Palmetto* magazine.)*

"Weeds of South Florida" revised edition

Steve says about this book: "It's only ten bucks, and worth it."

Prepared by horticulture students at Palm Beach State College, it is revised and updated by George Rogers (retired PBSC professor) and John Bradford, authors of the [Treasure Coast Natives](https://www.treasurecoastnatives.com) blog and is sold at cost. To order or for more info, email rogersg515@gmail.com.

Everglades National Park free entrance day, January 18, 2021 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Call 305-242-7700 for activities.

Miami-Dade EcoAdventures. Find and register for in-person or virtual activities. Or sign up for "**Tropical Trails**" the digital magazine (pdf file) featuring a calendar, articles, kids' corner and "Ask a Naturalist." <http://linktr.ee/miamiecoadventures>

Wings of Hope: Painted Tapestries of Florida's Imperiled Birds at Biscayne National Park through February 28, 2021.

Palette Knife Artists of Miami paired with photographs. <https://www.facebook.com/events/405980890523764/>

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association - Virtual meeting, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021. <http://miamiblue.org/>

for details. Dr. Tyson Wepprich, Oregon State University- (tentative) topic is the present and future state of butterflies in the United States based on urbanization and climate change.

Paid advertising

VEBER'S Jungle Garden

LESLIE VEBER

By Appointment Only
24605 SW 197 Avenue
Homestead, FL 33031
305-242-9500
www.vebersjungle.com

Retail • Wholesale Nursery
Landscape Design and Installation
Natives • Wildflowers • Bamboo • Palms • Bird and Butterfly Plants

Selling plants at wholesale or reduced prices!

By appointment ☀ Cash/check

NATIVES IN THE LANDSCAPE

By Roger L. Hammer

Marlberry - *Ardisia escallonioides*

Why marlberry isn't more popular in the South Florida landscape trade is one of nature's many mysteries. It's an exceptionally handsome small tree with terminal clusters of white, spicy-fragrant flowers that attract small, iridescent-green native bees as pollinators, and the fruits attract hungry fruit-eating birds, especially mockingbirds, catbirds, and blue jays. The flowers may also attract hairstreaks, crescents, skippers, and some of the smaller species of sulphur butterflies. As a small tree, it will reach about 16' tall in time, or it can be maintained as a shrub by periodic pruning. Another use would be to plant them in a row on 5'-6' centers as a tall privacy screen. Once established, it is carefree in the landscape and the perfect plant for small yards, with its tidy, dense, somewhat oblong canopy.



The common name is a corruption of a much older name, marbleberry, but neither name makes much sense. The genus *Ardisia* is Greek for "pointed," and relates to the pointed anthers on the flowers, while the species name, *escallonioides*, alludes to its resemblance to a member of the genus *Escallonia*. In Florida, marlberry is found in hammocks and pinelands from Flagler and Citrus Counties south through the Florida Keys. Its global range includes Bermuda, the Bahamas, Greater Antilles, and Mexico south to Belize and Guatemala. In the nursery trade it is mostly available in South Florida nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Find sources for native plants in the Miami-Dade area at DadeFNPS.org. Also see the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) website at <https://www.fann.org>, or inquire at your local Florida Native Plant Society chapter.

To see marlberry in the wild, visit any preserves that have hammock or pineland habitats. In Miami-Dade County I would suggest Castellow Hammock Park, Bill Sadowski Park, Navy Wells Pineland Preserve, and, of course, Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park.

Roger L. Hammer is a professional naturalist, author, photographer, and survivalist instructor for the Discovery Channel's reality TV show, *Naked and Afraid*. He has received numerous awards from the Florida Native Plant Society, Tropical Audubon Society, and the North American Butterfly Association, and was honored by the FNPS Dade Chapter with the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award. In 2012 he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Florida International University. His most recent book (2018) is "Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers." He lives in Homestead with his wife, Michelle.

Membership and email

- **FNPS now sends printed membership renewal notices (postal mail) only to members with no email address on file.**
- **If your membership lapses**, you will receive one printed notice and monthly email reminders for up to a year until you renew.
- **Help ensure that you receive email from FNPS and the Dade Chapter** by moving any FNPS or DCFNPS email junk/spam/promotions folder to your inbox, and adding those sender addresses to your email contacts.

Think you are missing email (FNPS or Dade)? Let us know!

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys

Chapter communication: DadeFNPS@gmail.com, 305-985-3677

DCFNPS website & social media: www.DadeFNPS.org/

Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

Board members (2019-2020):

President: Brian Diaz

Vice-President: Steve Woodmansee

Secretary: Gita Ramsay

Treasurer: Susan Walcutt

At Large: Joey Basna, Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Sanna O'Sullivan, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine

FNPS Council of Chapters representative: Kurt Birchenough

Newsletter editor: Patty Phares

Webmaster: Haniel Pulido Jr., dadefnpsweb@gmail.com

Tillandsia Newsletter

Please contact the editor if you might like to join the *Tillandsia* staff.

Articles, announcements and news items are invited for *Tillandsia* from Dade and Keys members. Advertising rates from \$12 per month.

Florida Native Plant Society

FNPS office: info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702

FNPS website, blog, social media: <http://www.fnps.org>

© 2021 Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.